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SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE CATLEDGE-KHRUSHCHEV INTERVIEW

On 13 May 1957 TASS reported the Khrushchev-Catledge interview (reported in the New York Times on 11 May), by reproducing what it called a full text of the minutes of the interview. Regarding Khrushchev's secret speech at the 20th Party Congress and official criticism of Stalin, the texts appearing in Pravda and Izvestiya on 14 May are identical with the TASS text, except that the two papers reproduce Catledge's direct questions and TASS puts them in indirect form. Neither Pravda nor Izvestiya subsequently referred to the interview.

A comparison of the New York Times and TASS reports of the Khrushchev-Catledge interview reveals only minor variations which are listed below:

NEW YORK TIMES
May 11, 1957

Moscow, TASS
CPYRGH May 13, 1957

1. Regarding Stalin's position in history: "very great!"
CPYRGHT

2. "The people will always regard him as a great man."
CPYRGHT

3. "Stalin had big deficiencies and drawbacks, about which we had occasion to speak and will continue to speak, and we are not sorry to have done so."

4. "He made many mistakes, but he also made many contributions to our party, to our working people, and to our country."

1. "Stalin will take a proper place in the history of the Soviet Union."

2. "Our Party, the Soviet people will remember Stalin and give him his due."

3. "He had great shortcomings..."
[underlined portions omitted]

4. [changes "to our working people" to "to the entire international labor movement"]

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On the following pages there are listed in parallel columns the pertinent portions of the Khrushchev-Catledge interview.

NEW YORK TIMES

TASS

Turning under question to the subject of Stalin, Mr. Khrushchev said he knew of no text of his Twentieth Party Congress speech in which he started the move to downgrade Stalin now being published in the West. We had asked him to verify or correct the text published by The New York Times.

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"I don't know what you mean by the text of my speech," he said. "There was a text apparently fabricated by the United States intelligence service. But this publishing house, headed by Allan Dulles [head of the Central Intelligence Agency in the United States] has no great standing in our eyes. I have no interest in what it publishes."

Asked what he thought Stalin's permanent position would be in the history of the Soviet Union and the Communist party Mr. Khrushchev replied "very

correct"

"Stalin had big deficiencies and drawbacks, about which we had occasion to speak and will continue to speak," he remarked. "And we are not sorry to have done so, however, he was a devoted revolutionary and a devoted follower of Marx and Lenin. He made many mistakes,

Catledge asked whether Khrushchev knew that last year the New York Times published the text of his speech at the 20th Congress of the Party criticizing the excesses of the Stalin period. He asked whether there were any important omissions or distortions in the text of Khrushchev's speech which was published in the Western countries.

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Khrushchev: I do not know what text you are speaking about. I heard that some text fabricated by the American intelligence service was published in the United States and that text was passed for the text of my report at the 20th Congress of the Party. But the reputation of the Allen Dulles publishing house does not stand high in the Soviet Union. I have no desire to read literature fabricated by Allen Dulles.

Catledge asked Khrushchev about the place which in his opinion Stalin would take in the history of the Soviet Union.

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Khrushchev: Stalin will take a proper place in the history of the Soviet Union. He had great shortcomings but Stalin was a faithful Marxist-Leninist, a devoted and staunch revolutionary. Stalin made numerous mistakes in the latter period of his activities but he also did much that was

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CPYRGHT

but he also made many great contributions to our party, to our working people and to our country. The people will always regard him as a great man."

Pressed to specify the mistakes he attributed to Stalin, he continued:

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"We said so publicly. We mentioned the bad things. The bad things about Stalin were in Lenin's testament, which we published. Lenin noted very well the defects in Stalin's character and warned against them."

CPYRGHT

Stalin's Defects Weighed

"But at that stage Stalin drew the necessary conclusions from the warnings and managed to avoid displaying his deficiencies. There are weaknesses in a man's character which he cannot control. And the defects in Stalin's character developed as time went along. He did great harm to our cause and our party. We condemned him, so that no one else would want to repeat the things which are contrary to the teachings of our Marxist-Leninist party.

CPYRGHT

useful to our country, to our Party, to the entire international labor movement. Our Party, the Soviet people will remember Stalin and give him his due.

Catledge asked whether Khrushchev could name at least a few of the mistakes committed by Stalin.

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Khrushchev: Our press already spoke about that. Even Lenin spoke of Stalin's shortcomings, in a document known as "Lenin's Testament." That document was published in the Soviet Union last year. Lenin very aptly pointed out Stalin's shortcomings and warned the Party against them. At that stage Stalin drew the appropriate conclusions from Lenin's warnings and kept himself within certain limits. But evidently every man has his weaknesses, against which he is powerless. With time, precisely those negative traits in Stalin's character which had already been pointed out by Lenin developed, and this was detrimental to our cause, our Party. And we have condemned these mistakes to prevent them from being repeated by anyone. These mistakes run counter to the teaching of Marxism-Leninism.

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